



INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Perry approaches Lena and her gang. He hesitates for a beat, sucks it up, taps Lena on the shoulder. In the background partially hidden by an open locker door, Jason and Devon witness. Lena wheels, Perry gulps, he's face to face with his goddess. He stares.

LENA
What?

PERRY
Lena. Hey.

LENA
(looks around)
Are you, like, addressing me directly?

PERRY
You know The Harvest Moon Dance?

LENA
Duh. I'm head of the decoration committee. It was anonymous.

PERRY
Congratulations! So since you don't have a date anymore, I thought you might like to...

At that moment, the world around him goes SUPER SLOW MOTION. Perry glances around. Every kid is staring at him.

PERRY (CONT'D)
Go to the dance with me!

It comes out like a violent command. Perry gulps.

PERRY (CONT'D)
You know, we have a lot in common!

LENA
Like *what*, little guy, dude-whose-name-I-don't-know?

PERRY
It's Perry. You know that. So, the Japanese folk tale really touched you, you said? I noticed you were crying. You had a pink tissue...

LENA

I was crying cuz my selfish ex-boyfriend hadn't texted me since second period.

Lena sees Jason, furious. She smiles at him, sweetly, but her eyes are daggers. *This is not about Perry. It's about Jason.*

LENA (CONT'D)

(loud enough for everyone to hear)
So I dumped him. He can play touch football with himself now.

Lena crowd snickers. Jason is being held back by Devon. Lena takes Perry by the arm, then leans in, and whispers.

LENA (CONT'D)

(in a sexy voice)
I only date hot men. Or average boys who are rich.
(thinks)
Probably the second one first.

Perry nods gravely.

LENA (CONT'D)

But you have, like, major huevos rancheros for approaching me. Tell ya what. I'll think about it, 'kay?

PERRY

Kay!

LENA

Text me.

TIME RAMPS BACK TO NORMAL. THE SCHOOL UNFREEZES! Seemingly out of nowhere, nerds appear out of nooks and crannies. They crowd around Perry. Lots of slaps on the back, and high-fives. Lena turns back to her friends, winks, falls in line with her crew. MJ starts breathing again. Rafiki mouths thank you, and Zoe rolls her eyes.